

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Rock Island, Illinois Woman Arrested, Charged with Making False Statements Related to Terrorist Threats**

Rock Island, IL - The United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Jan Paul Miller, announced that a Rock Island, Illinois, woman has been arrested and charged with making false statements related to terrorism threats earlier this year. The federal grand jury in Peoria returned the four-count indictment against Kham Fong Cox, age 33, of 3130 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, Illinois, on Thursday, July 21, 2005. Cox was arrested today and was scheduled to make her initial appearance in federal court in Rock Island late this afternoon.

The indictment alleges that on four occasions in early 2005, Cox made false statements to law enforcement agents with the U.S. Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As alleged in the indictment, Cox reported to agents that an individual she named told her that he was gathering information on how to build a difficult-to-detect, remote-controlled bomb and send it to the White House to assassinate the President of the United States. Cox allegedly made the false statements on January 11, 2005, to a task force officer with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and on January 26, February 3, and February 18, 2005, to special agents of the U.S. Secret Service. In fact, when she made the reports, the indictment alleges Cox knew her statements were false.

U.S. Attorney Miller said, "All threats of terrorism or injury are taken seriously. Knowingly reporting false information diverts officers' valuable time and resources from legitimate investigations. Anyone who commits such offenses should be prepared to face aggressive prosecution and punishment." (More)

If convicted, the maximum statutory penalty for each count of the offense of making a false statement is five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the U.S. Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Illinois State Police. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John K. Mehochko of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Rock Island division.

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